

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/668,315

Examiner

Garcia Ade

Applicant(s)

KATADA ET AL.

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/30/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 16, 35, 38 - 43, and 50 - 54.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Acknowledgements

1. Applicants' amendment filed on October 30th, 2006 has been entered.

Accordingly, claims 1 - 16, 35, 38 - 43, and 50 - 54 remain pending. This Office Action is given Paper No. 20070201.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 50 recite an apparatus unit replacement assisting method, comprising: of receiving, from a first user apparatus, request information expressing a wish to replace a first detector in a first X-ray CT apparatus with a second detector; receiving, from a second user apparatus different from said first user apparatus, release information informing release of the second detector in a second X-ray CT apparatus usable in said first X-ray CT apparatus; presenting inquiry information to said first user apparatus communicating via a computer whether a first user is going to use a refurbished second detector as the second detector for said first X-ray CT apparatus, wherein said refurbished second detector is the second detector.

The most closely applicable prior art of record is referred to in the Office Action mailed on June 29, 2006 as U.S. Patent No. 6,234,522 B1 to Peterson et al. ("Peterson"). Peterson discloses receiving from a first user (the buyer) request information expressing a wish to replace a first unit (the user expresses a wish to buy a part having a particular part number, particular assembly number, or alternative part number); the first unit comprises a first apparatus (virtually all

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subassemblies are comprised of parts or other sub subassemblies); a second user (seller) who has release information (e.g. seller's sale price) for a second unit (the unit for sale); the second unit comprises part of a second apparatus (the second unit is a subassembly); and presenting inquiry information to the first user via computer (the price is presented to the first user).

However, Peterson neither anticipates or fairly and reasonably teaches as to whether or not the invention disclosed includes medical equipment; using inventory control practices to track used medical equipment; and one of the products is a single slice CT scanner. Because the missing features are not found in a reasonable number of references, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the missing features with Peterson because the claimed invention relates to the replacement of detectors in X-ray CT apparatus or the replacement of magnetic field coils in an MRI apparatus. While Peterson relates to parts or child components which are not currently in use or part of a second apparatus but may be used in a second apparatus. Moreover, Peterson does not relate to medical equipment.

Thus, the combination of claimed features is not disclosed in a reasonable manner.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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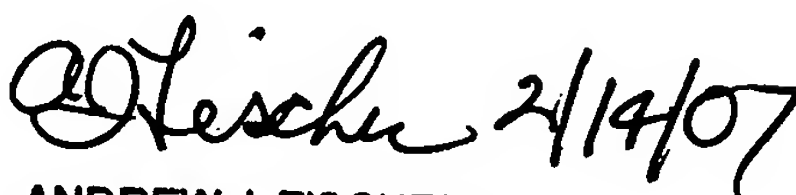
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Garcia Ade whose telephone number is 571.272.5586. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Florian Zeender can be reached on 571.272.6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Garcia Ade
Examiner
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 2/14/07
ANDREW J. FISCHER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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